

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05

DHA-02 /072 W

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O 270945Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6845

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: SFAETY OF JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BEIRUT

REF: STATE 254922 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF TELEPHONED HEAD OF JEWISH COMMUNITY (DR. ATTIYEH) IN BEIRUT MORNING OCT 27 REPEAT 27. ATTIYEH SAID, OF COURSE, LEBANESE OF JEWISH RELIGION ARE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT SITUATION AND STATED THAT NEWS REPORTS ALLEGING EVACUATION OF NATIONALS OF MAJOR WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD ADDED TO THIS ANXIETY. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THESE REPORTS WITH ATTIYEH, POINTING OUT THAT NEWS REPORTS NOT RPT NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATE AND THAT THIS EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO PLANS TO CLOSE DOWN COMPLETELY, ALTHOUGH WITH WORSENING SECURITY SITUATION AMCITS AND OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS WILL PROBABLY BE MORE INCLINED TO DEPART LEBANON, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.

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2. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT JEWISH QUARTER FEELING EFFECTS OF

GENERALIZED FIGHTING, JUST AS SOME NEIGHBORHOODS IN WHICH AMCITS RESIDE CAN BE SAID TO BE UNDER FIRE. THERE IS FIGHTING IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF DR. ATTIYEH'S HOSPITAL SINCE HE LIVES ALMOST DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM HOLIDAY INN. HE DOES NOT PERCEIVE SPECIFIC THREAT AGAINST JEWISH CITIZENS, BUT IS NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SAFETY, WHICH NO ONE CAN GUARANTEE UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. WE ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED RE AMERCANS IN THAT AREA.

3. EMBOFF, WHO IS NORMAL MISSION CONTACT WITH DR. ATTIYEH, ASSURED ATTIYEH THAT HE (EMBOFF) PLANS REMAIN IN BEIRUT. ATTIYEH HAS OFFICE AND HOME PHONE NUMBERS OF EMBOFF AND EMBOFF ASSURED ATTIYEH, AT LATTER'S REQUEST, THAT ATTIYEH WAS WELCOME TO CALL AT ANY TIME FOR "ADVICE". EMBOFF MADE CLEAR AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THAT EMBASSY'S CAPABILITIES IN CURRENT SITUATION ARE LIMITED AND URGED ATTIYEH TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH GOL AUTHORITIES, WITH WHOM HE HAS LONG AND WELL-ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIP.

4. WE CAN SUGGEST NOTHING THAT EMBASSY OR USG CAN DO TO BENEFIT JEWISH COMMUNITY UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WE CAUTION, HOWEVER, THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR ACTIVITIES RE LEBANESE JEWISH COMMUNITY BY GOI AND/OR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ABROAD IS QUICKEST WAY WE CAN CONCEIVE TO MAKE PRESENT GENERAL DANGER, SHARED BY ALL RESIDENTS, LEBANESE AND FOREIGN ALIKE, SPECIFIC THREAT AGAINST JEWISH CITIZENS. LIKEWISE, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY USG ACTION WHICH MAKES LEBANESE JEWS APPEAR TO HAVE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH EMBASSY OR USG IS LIKELY TO INCREASE RATHER THAN REDUCE DANGERS TO LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY. FINALLY, WE REQUEST THAT DEPT NOT REPEAT NOT INSTRUCT EMBASSY TO INITIATE FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH ATTIYEH. ATTIYEH KNOWS HOW TOCONTACT EMBOFF, WITH WHOM HE HAS EXCELLENT RAPPORT, AND EMBOFF WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT AS NECESSARY. WE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT REPEATED EMBASSY-INITIATED CONTACTS WLLL LEAD ATTIYEH AND OTHER MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY TO BELIEVE EMBASSY WOULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN EXTREMIS, WHICH THIS MISSION CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT ASSURE IN CURRENT SITUATION OF ANARCHY IN THIS CITY.

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